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**United States Patent** [19]**Tyner**[11] **Patent Number:** **5,486,391**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Jan. 23, 1996**[54] **PORTABLE FABRIC COVERED DIVIDER  
PANELS**[76] **Inventor:** **Jeffrey D. Tyner**, 2879 Canyonside Ct.  
NE., Grand Rapids, Mich. 49505[21] **Appl. No.:** **270,730**[22] **Filed:** **Jul. 5, 1994**[51] **Int. Cl.<sup>6</sup>** ..... **B32B 3/06; B32B 27/10;**  
**B32B 27/32; B32B 27/40**[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **428/44; 52/71; 52/239;**  
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**160/231.2; 160/351; 428/45; 428/52; 428/53;**  
**428/54; 428/71; 428/83; 428/122; 428/319.3;**  
**428/319.7; 428/319.9; 428/424.2; 428/424.8**[58] **Field of Search** ..... 428/44, 45, 52,  
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319.7, 319.9; 160/135, 231.1, 231.2, 351;  
52/239, 309.9, 71, 811, 821, 823[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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A panel (10) for use as a space divider (100) or to be attached to furniture (102) is described. The panel has a molded polystyrene beads (STYROFOAM™) bead board core (12) encased in a plastic film layer (14) which stabilizes the panel and allows the panel to be used as a tack board. A decorative outer cover (18) is provided over the core and plastic layer to increase the aesthetic quality and versatility of the panel. Support plates (26) are provided along the edges (12C) of the core underneath the plastic layer to increase the structural strength of the panel and to enable attachment of the panels to each other or to other furniture. Attachment rails (20) are provided on the outside of the panel to protect the edges of the panel and enable a connector hinge (22) to be attached to the panel for connecting two panels together. The panels being used as a space divider can also have adjustment units (24) to change the height of the space dividers and to stabilize the divider especially on an uneven ground surface.

**41 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets**